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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Central Intelligence Bulletin

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Approved For Release 2003/05/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A013400050001-7

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No. 0079/69
2 April 1969

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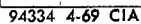
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South Vietnam: The Communists may be pausing briefly to refit some front-line units and to assess the results to date of their post-Tet offensive.

Enemy activity throughout South Vietnam on 1 April dropped to one of the lowest levels noted since the offensive began nearly six weeks ago. No major ground attacks were reported, and, except for one isolated terrorist incident in Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital as well as its major northern cities were generally free of enemy activity.

Although Communist attacks have tapered off sharply in the last day or so, there are persistent reports of enemy intentions to sustain their offensive throughout the month of April and possibly beyond.

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[Laos: Government guerrilla troops are making some early headway as they open up a counteroffensive in the northeast.

Designed to forestall a major Communist push south of the Plaine des Jarres that Lao military leaders still believe is imminent, the operation has so far resulted in the capture of two strategic positions near Route 4, an important Communist supply route east of the Plaine. One of the positions is Ban Pha, a government base that had fallen to the enemy in February; the other is located on Phou Khe mountain, from which the guerrillas will be able to place artillery fire on Route 4. The Communists offered little resistance to the assaults.

Other government ground actions have not fared as well, although harassing attacks along Route 7 have probably caused the enemy to divert troops to protect the road. The government's ground offensive is being conducted in conjunction with an unprecedented aerial campaign against Communist positions near the Plaine des Jarres. Although it is still too early to assess the results of these actions, the recent movement of a North Vietnamese battalion out of the Plaine area suggests that the government may be achieving its tactical purpose.

If the offensive continues to go well, it may do much to repair the shattered morale of government troops. There is also a possibility, however, that the Communists may react sharply to the threat to their rear areas in the northeast. A sharp rebuff to the government forces there--at a time when the guerrillas' confidence has been badly shaken--could set off a series of developments that would result in the collapse of the government's presence in Samneua and Xieng Khouang provinces. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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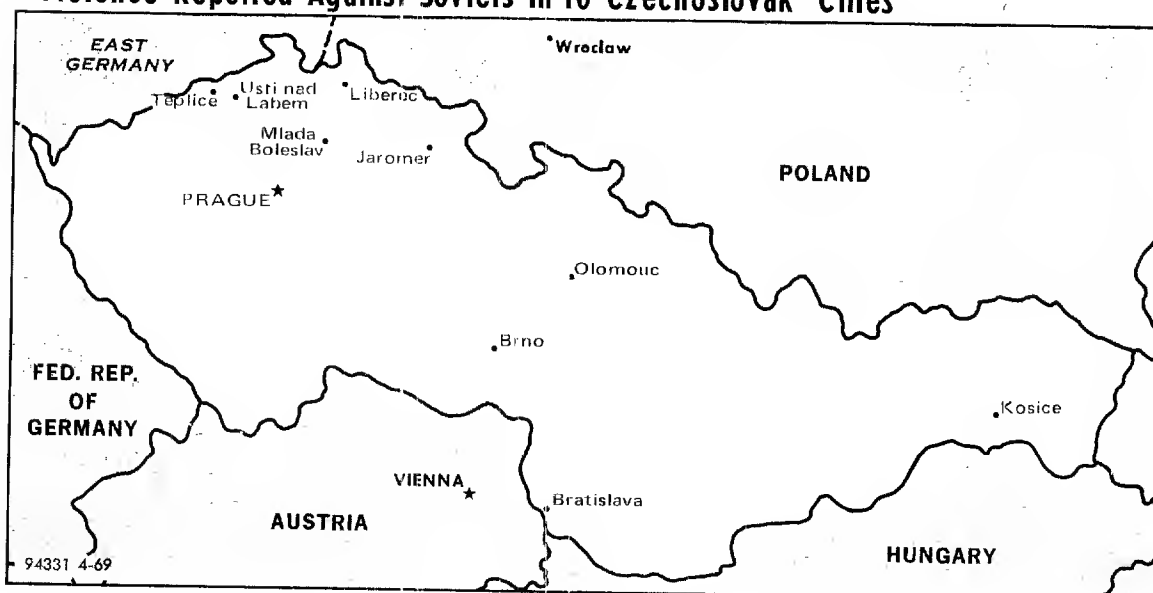
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Violence Reported Against Soviets in 10 Czechoslovak Cities



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USSR-Czechoslovakia: Two high-level Soviet officials have been sent to Prague, probably to reinforce Moscow's demands that manifestations of anti-Soviet sentiment in Czechoslovakia be suppressed.

Defense Minister Grechko and Deputy Foreign Minister Semenov arrived Monday in the aftermath of the wave of anti-Soviet demonstrations that has seriously complicated relations. Both men reportedly met with the Czechoslovak party presidium yesterday afternoon.

Grechko, who reportedly came to inspect the Soviet forces stationed in Czechoslovakia, will undoubtedly discuss last weekend's demonstrations with his local commanders and with Czechoslovak leaders. Semenov probably was sent to add weight to Soviet diplomatic protests against the demonstrations.

Soviet media continue their criticism of the Czechoslovak press. The youth newspaper, Komsomolskaya Pravda, yesterday blamed "instigating commentaries" in the Czechoslovak press for the "outrages." It cited Czechoslovak television and some seven Czechoslovak newspapers, but its treatment of the general situation suggests that Moscow is still holding to its claim that Czechoslovakia is being "normalized."

The violence against Soviet installations, equipment, and personnel during the night of 28-29 March was more widespread than originally reported. Burnings of Soviet buildings and cars or attacks on Soviet troops occurred in ten cities, and there is reason to believe that lesser incidents took place elsewhere.

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The Czechoslovak authorities clearly are concerned about the effects of the violence and the anti-Soviet tone of media reporting it. The party leaderships of the federal, Czech, and Slovak governments met yesterday in an unusual joint session to decide what to do next. The announcement of the session, which noted that other normal business was transacted, was couched in terms designed to cool the atmosphere.

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Israel: Recent statements by Minister of Defense Moshe Dayan that he was not "comfortable" within the ruling Labor Party may signal the beginning of some domestic political turmoil in Israel.

Dayan said--for the first time publicly--that he had not yet made up his mind whether to leave the party, but would make that decision well before the Knesset elections this fall. Dayan aspires to be prime minister but as yet he has no significant political machinery to support him and may just be taking soundings. He is immensely popular with the public, particularly with the younger Israelis.

Dayan's departure from the party would probably lead to the breakup of the current national coalition, perhaps even causing damaging break-offs from the Labor Party itself.

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East Germany - Arab States: Pankow's announcement that the East Germans and Egyptians have upgraded the status of their respective representation seems designed to induce other Arab states to be more forthcoming.

The East German party daily, Neues Deutschland, reported on 29 March that, during Foreign Minister Winzer's trip to Cairo in January, East Germany and Egypt had reached agreement to raise their representations from consulates general to "missions." The paper carefully avoided suggesting that the establishment of the missions also involved establishment of diplomatic relations. The announcement did state, however, that the agreement was reached in an effort to make "state relations" reflect the status of the "deep, friendly" relations between the two countries.

The East Germans presumably hope that the agreement with Cairo will facilitate their efforts to raise the level of their representation in other Arab states. They apparently delayed announcing the agreement until after Iraqi Foreign Minister Al-Shaykhli had arrived in East Berlin.

Earlier rumors, in both the Middle East and in Germany, had Iraq ready to establish diplomatic relations and to exchange ambassadors with East Germany. Pankow may hope that if Iraq does not agree to this, it will agree at least to follow Egypt's lead.

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Anguilla: Although the truce agreement signed early this week by Britain and Anguilla apparently ends the immediate crisis, other Caribbean leaders will probably continue to try to influence events in the occupied island.

Last week Prime Minister Shearer of Jamaica made an unsuccessful attempt to persuade Forbes Burnham of Guyana that "independent Commonwealth countries" should help find a solution to Anguilla's problems. Shearer may now take the line that the British "intervention" constitutes a dangerous precedent.

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NOTES

Communist China: The long-postponed ninth party congress opened in Peking yesterday. The formal agenda includes discussion of a "political report" by Mao's heir, Lin Piao; adoption of a new party constitution; and election of a new central committee. Top provincial and central leaders have been meeting in the capital since 8 March, presumably in an attempt to work out agreement on divisive policy and personnel issues prior to the congress. Debate on some of these issues may spill over into the congress itself. [REDACTED]

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UK-Nigeria: Prime Minister Wilson's visit to Lagos last week appears to have strengthened the Nigerians' confidence that British support will continue. Very little is known of what went on at the meetings between Wilson and federal leader Gowon. Both Nigerian and British officials in Lagos are pleased, however, at the outcome of the visit, which was originally designed to enable Wilson to deal with criticism at home of his policy toward Nigeria. On 31 March Wilson flew to Ethiopia, and it now appears highly unlikely that the meeting he was trying to arrange with Biafran leader Ojukwu will come off. [REDACTED]

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Mauritania: The foreign minister recently told the Spanish chargé in Nouakchott, who handles US affairs there, that his government has decided to renew diplomatic relations with the US as soon as possible. Mauritania's representative to the UN is to work out the details. Mauritania broke relations during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, but has stressed that its action is being taken independently of other nations who broke. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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Chad-France: Senior military and civilian officers from Paris were scheduled to arrive yesterday in Fort Lamy, a strategic center for the French military presence in Africa, apparently to study ways to bolster the hard-pressed Chadian Government. The French directly administered parts of Chad until 1965 and French soldiers led local anti-insurgent forces there as recently as last summer. Since their withdrawal, President Tombalbaye's basic problem of making Chad a viable state has been compounded by mounting corruption and inefficiency in the civil administration and by the inability of Chad's military to put down Muslim banditry and insurgency in the country's eastern provinces. [REDACTED]

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

The United States Intelligence Board on
28 March 1969 approved the following national in-
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NIE 80/90-69, "Economic Trends and
Prospects in Latin
America"

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